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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

First Session

The first session of the twelfth convention of the Special Libraries Association was called to order by the President, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., on Tuesday afternoon, June 21st, in the Ball Room of the New Ocean House, with about one hundred fifty present. As Mr. Hyde had addressed the general session of the A. L. A. that morning (see page 154) he confined himself to a brief summary of the year's work. He spoke of the changed business conditions since the convention in April, 1920, and the trying effects upon business people in particular. The census report showed that the Association must organize on a better basis and that every member must feel his obligations towards his professional duties. The membership campaign started in January was showing good results. The magazine *Special Libraries* had changed hands four times during the year until a permanent editor could be found. Adelaide R. Hasse became editor in November. The Census of Survey Committee, under the chairmanship of W. F. Jacob had turned over all its data to Mr. Hyde who was now at work publishing the *National directory of special libraries* containing over 1,300 names. Mr. Hyde thanked the various members and committees that had helped him during the year. The Secretary-Treasurer, Estelle L. Liebmann, read a brief report on the work of the secretary's office. She thanked the members who had helped her by contributing their services and giving their co-operation. One hundred sixty-two new members have been added during the year making a total membership of six hundred one, including five hundred thirty-four subscribers to *Special Libraries*. Margaret C. Wells, the Assistant-Secretary-Treasurer, gave the financial report. Adelaide R. Hasse, editor of *Special Libraries*, asked for more co-operation from members, especially by sending her news and suggestions for the improvement of the magazine. No reports from committees

were read. Mr. Hyde then introduced the first speaker, Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, Editor of *Science Service*. Dr. Slosson spoke of the lack of real information on science among the general public and the confusion that arose among scientists through lack of centralized information on scientific research and the duplication of effort. He said:

The War taught the necessity of co-ordinate effort. One of the 'war babies' was the National Research Council to promote co-operative research in all branches of science and technology in America. The Information Service of the National Research Council aims to furnish any sort of scientific information needed by individual investigators, technical laboratories, industrial establishments and libraries. *Science Service* is an entirely independent organization endowed by Mr. Scripps of Miramar, California, for the purpose of disseminating scientific information to the public by means of the press, the platform and the motion picture.

Leroy D. Peavey spoke on HOW BUSINESS MEN GET FACTS AND FIGURES. He described the methods of Babson's Statistical Organization by means of a lengthy description and charts. He brought out the following points and elaborated upon them, Sources of Information, Analysis, Presentation and Need of a Broad Vision.

Second Session

The second session of the Special Libraries Association was called to order by President Hyde in the Children's Dining Room of the New Ocean House on Tuesday evening, June 21st, at 8:30 P.M. Daniel N. Handy spoke first on HOW BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL EXECUTIVES OBTAIN INFORMATION. Mr. Handy said that while the outlook for the special library as a recognized factor in business and industry has never been better, the immediate conditions surrounding business and industrial libraries at present are depressing. Mr. Handy emphasized future possibilities more than present facts. Before the War the special librarian was still considered a custodian and collector of facts but with the

War came a vast expansion of ideas bringing with them new vision and new ambition. As the librarian gets away from the conception of himself as a collector and custodian of information and conceives himself a master of information, he will, undoubtedly, be admitted into a larger share of the profitable responsibilities of business and industry. The increasing demand for information brings increasing opportunity and we may expect in the future to see more and more of the responsible creative work of business and industry centering around the library.

Mr. Hyde announced that Mr. Feiker, formerly of McGraw-Hill Company and now Assistant to Mr. Hoover, wished to have ideas for improving the publications of the Department of Commerce with a view towards making them more useful to the business man. A committee was appointed for the purpose. The rest of the evening was given over to a group meeting lead by Lewis A. Armistead on OBTAINING INFORMATION FOR THE LIBRARY.

Miss Hasse spoke of the work of the War Industries Board and its files with its valuable information carefully arranged for future use. Miss Hasse emphasized anticipating wants and following carefully current ideas.

Elsie L. Baechtold described the selecting, ordering and acquiring of material, showing by means of a large chart the results of a questionnaire.

Miss Welland, in charge of the *New York Times Index*, described this work and its value to special librarians.

Helen E. Hemphill described the museum of the Western Electric Company in which one article of everything manufactured by the company was placed, making a valuable historical collection of the telephone industry.

Third Session

The third session of the Special Libraries Association was called to order by President Hyde, on Wednesday, June 22nd at 9:30 A. M. in the Ball Room of the New Ocean House. The first paper was by

Charles C. Parlin, Research Manager of the Curtis Publishing Company. It was a very interesting and illuminating account of methods of gathering information for research studies by means of all known sources, written reports, printed material and first hand information by men in the field.

The second paper was by Dr. Frederick Hoffman, Third Vice-President of the Prudential Insurance Company but read by F. S. Crum. It described the library and material of the Prudential Insurance Company and the way of handling it without a catalog.

Fourth Session

The fourth session of the Special Libraries Association was called to order at 3:30 P.M., June 22nd in the Assembly Room. It was partly a joint meeting with the National Association of State Libraries and opened with a paper by Herbert O. Brigham on INFORMATION SERVICES. Mr. Brigham described the field and value of various commercial services.

George Winthrop Lee then took the chair as chairman of the group meeting on Organizing Special Library Data.

Edith Phail, the first speaker, said that the first duty of an industrial librarian was to become acquainted with the personnel of the organization so as to be able to know the specialists in the concern who could be called upon for information. The second step was to know all sources of information in the town outside of the plant, such as the public and other libraries, associations and agencies.

Marguerite Burnett described graphically and with examples the various forms in use in the library of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and was asked to exhibit them for the benefit of all.

Guy E. Marion, formerly secretary and president of the S. L. A., spoke on the librarian's place in business and brought out some points to be kept in mind when organizing.

Margaret C. Wells described methods in

use in the library of the American International Corporation for reports, pamphlets and current legislation.

Estelle L. Liebmann explained by means of a chart the classification of books made for the library of the Ronald Press Company.

Representatives from various filing associations spoke, namely, Helen Craft of Philadelphia, Ruth E. Clement of Boston and Elizabeth MacDowell of New York.

Fifth Session

The fifth session of the Special Libraries Association was a joint meeting with the A. L. A. on Friday at 10:30 A. M. A full account will be found on p. 159. Miss Tyler resigned the chair in favor of Mr. Hyde. It was a most gratifying meeting as it brought out the essential differences and likenesses between public and special librarians and the need of one for the other.

Sixth Session

The sixth session of the Special Libraries Association was called to order by President Hyde on June 24th at 2:30 P. M. in the Assembly Room of the New Ocean House.

The first speaker was J. George Frederick on BUSINESS DATA METHODS AND SOURCES.

H. V. Coes spoke on the DEPENDENCE OF THE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE UPON THE SPECIAL LIBRARIAN and the need for some central bureau where information about information could be collected.

Mrs. Jeanne B. Foster gave a paper on the work of the private investment banker.

Frank E. Barrows gave an address with special reference to the problems of the patent lawyer and the patents on chemistry, in which he specializes. He also emphasized the lack of bibliographical training given to students in professional schools and colleges which deficiency follows them throughout their career.

M. R. Winchell described information as found in trade journals and spoke of the *Industrial Digest*, the first number of which is to appear in September.

In all these papers, emphasis was laid on accurate information of the right kind for the business man and its proper application.

Seventh Session

The seventh and last session of the Special Libraries Association was called to order by D. N. Handy, as presiding officer. Part of the evening was given to papers and addresses of representatives of local special library organizations. Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell of Boston, Rebecca B. Rankin of New York, Helen M. Rankin of Philadelphia and Alta B. Claffin of Cleveland described the work of the various associations, giving a history and showing, in each instance, keen interest and activity.

The meeting was interrupted by a short business meeting and continued as a group meeting on Selling Special Library Service, with Orrena Louise Evans as chairman. The speakers were Edith Thomas, describing the Extension Division of the Library of the University of Michigan, Mae Taylor on the Library of the Philadelphia Electric Company and Mary Louise Alexander of Barton, Durstine and Osborne on the library of an advertising agency.

Business Meeting

The only business meeting held was on Friday evening, June 24th, when the report of the Nominating Committee was read and the elections held. D. N. Handy, as a member of the committee, was the presiding officer. The officers elected for 1921-1922 were as follows: President, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr. (re-elected); First Vice-President, Helen E. Hemphill (re-elected); Second Vice-President, Rebecca B. Rankin; Secretary-Treasurer, Orrena Louise Evans; Assistant-Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred B. Lindsay; Executive Board, the foregoing officers and Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell and Edward H. Redstone.

Most of the papers presented in the meetings of the Special Libraries Association, appear in *Special Libraries* for September and October, 1921.